

LISTING AND AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. – 39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) Lead or lead alloy having a percentage of special grain boundaries which is at least 20% of the total grain boundaries of said lead or lead alloy, said lead alloy being alloyed with at least one element selected from the group consisting of Ag, Al, As, Ba, Bi, Ca, Cd, Cu, Fe, Li, Mg, Na, Se, Sb, Sn, Sr and Zn.

41. (Previously Presented) The lead or lead alloy of Claim 40 having a percentage of special grain boundaries which is at least 30% of the total grain boundaries of said lead or lead alloy.

42. (Previously Presented) The lead or lead alloy of Claim 41 having a percentage of special grain boundaries which is at least 40% of the total grain boundaries of said lead or lead alloy.

43. (Previously Presented) The lead or lead alloy of Claim 42 having a percentage of special grain boundaries which is at least 50% of the total grain boundaries of said lead or lead alloy.

44. (Previously Presented) The lead or lead alloy of Claim 40 which has been annealed to obtain the percentage of special grain boundaries, said lead or lead alloy having a hardness after annealing which is not greater than the hardness of said lead or lead alloy before annealing.

45. (Previously Presented) The lead or lead alloy of Claim 41 which has been annealed to obtain the percentage of special grain boundaries, said lead or lead alloy having a hardness after annealing, which is not greater than the hardness of said lead or lead alloy before annealing.

46. (Previously Presented) The lead or lead alloy of Claim 42 which has been annealed to obtain the percentage of special grain boundaries, said lead or lead alloy having a hardness after annealing, which is not greater than the hardness of said lead or lead alloy before annealing.

47. (Previously Presented) The lead or lead alloy of Claim 43 which has been annealed to obtain the percentage of special grain boundaries, said lead or lead alloy having a

hardness after annealing, which is not greater than the hardness of said lead or lead alloy before annealing.

48. (Previously Presented) The lead or lead alloy of Claim 40 obtained from a mass of lead or lead alloy at least a portion of which has been deformed below the solvus temperature of the lead or lead alloy.

49. (Previously Presented) The lead or lead alloy of Claim 48 where said deforming takes place by rolling, extruding, expanding, punching, or peening said lead or lead alloy.

50. (Previously Presented) The lead or lead alloy of Claim 40 obtained from a billet extruded to a strip of desired thickness while maintaining the strip at a temperature up to the solvus temperature of the lead or lead alloy which strip is optionally deformed by rolling, expanding, punching, bending or peening below the solvus temperature of the lead or lead alloy.

51. (Previously Presented) The lead or lead alloy of Claim 40 which is in the form of a positive current collector, or a strap, lug or post for use in a lead-acid battery.

52. (Currently Amended) A current collector constituted of the lead or lead alloy of Claim ~~40~~40 in the form of : a continuous cast grid, a continuous rolled grid, an extruded strip, a strip perforated using expansion or punching, a foil, sheet, a bookmold grid, a tubular grid, an expanded grid, a connector or a non-consumable electrode for use in an electrochemical cell.